

The Valley COMIC N · E · W · S



ISSUE #52
December 5, 1991

FREE

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CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
PRESIDENT BILL, JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
LOCAL HEROES

STORIES:
AMERICA DUKES IT OUT
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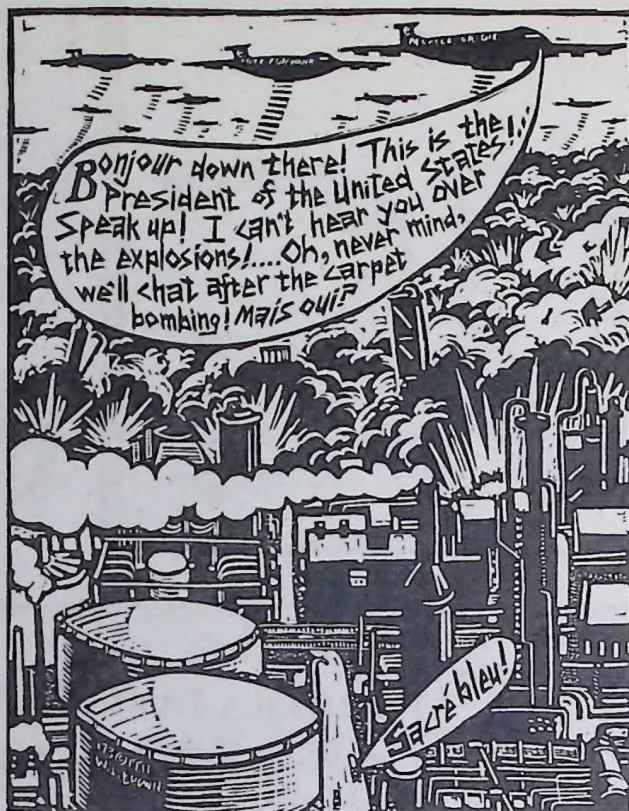
(see inside for details)

PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

M PRESIDENT BILL

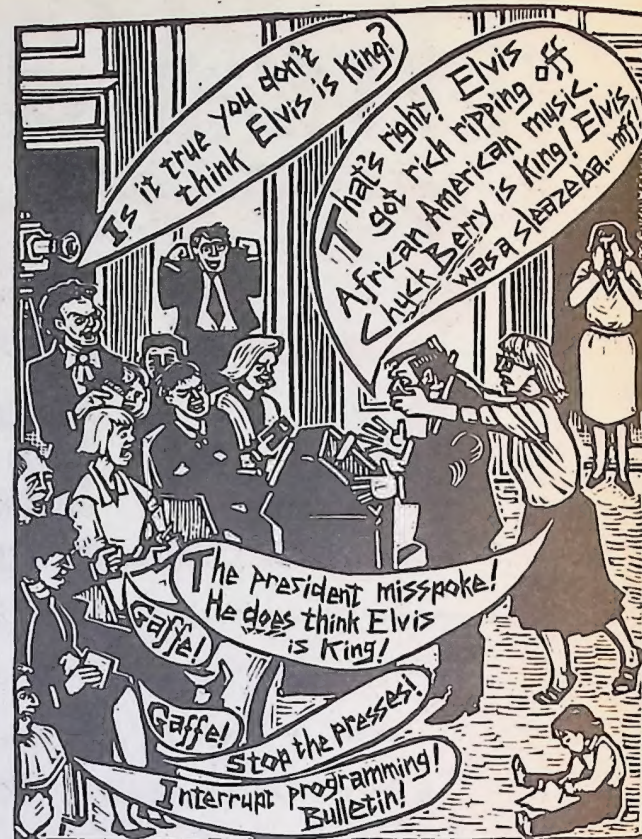
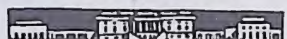
My strategists advised me to cut back on campaign speeches and press conferences, suggesting I do something to generate more favorable media coverage. They said I should steer away from my controversial domestic agenda. They urged me to take up an international issue instead, perhaps something environmental. So, acting on a just-released study showing that disintegration of the ozone layer was largely due to greenhouse gases generated by heavy industry in Europe, I personally led a special mission to hold talks on halting those emissions.

★ ABOLISH ELECTIONS
★ VOTE FOR PRESIDENT BILL ★



I PRESIDENT BILL

I had hoped to keep ★ the election campaign from falling prey to the sensationalistic, simplistic media, which lay in wait, ready to pounce. They hadn't the intelligence or the patience to investigate real issues in depth, so they reduced everything to a lurid, bastardized form, which they then fed to the public. The public in turn regurgitated the media's pablum through public opinion polls. In this way, the media kept voters focused on flashy, superficial topics. So, I had to beware of reporters eager to stir up politically pointless but highly popular sensational issues. ★



"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.

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PAGE THREE

Who among us, my friends, has not heard the alarm ring on a Monday morning and sworn a horrible oath? An oath, that is, at Monday's presumption, at its glee about being there to lead us stumbling and muttering into another week? Monday, like a parent who looms triumphantly at the foot of the bed and barks, "You've got to get up *now*, or you'll be late!"

Well, I've got an idea. In fact, it's a Simple Idea That Can Change Our Lives. It'll make 'em sit up and comb their hair in our nation's capital. Here's what we do: every so often, say twice a year, we eliminate Monday. That's right — tear the little bugger right off the calendar. We'll have a 48-hour-long Sunday each of those days, when we don't do nuthin' except sit around. The second 24 hours we'll call Sunday, Part II.

We'll have plenty of time on our hands then, because they'll already have played all the football games on Sunday, Part I. And except for a few really strict Calvinists who want to keep working no matter *whose* circus is in town, I can't think of a soul who'd care if an occasional Monday bit the dust.

Retailers wouldn't mind; they're all closed Monday anyway. Office workers certainly wouldn't protest; nobody complains harder about Monday than office workers. Except factory workers. Factory workers hate Monday with a cold, writhing passion because they have to get up and face it earlier than anybody else.

Now, I know what you're saying: "Sure, but we already *have* a bunch of Monday holidays." Well, yes and no. It's great not to have to work on those Monday holidays, but they do demand a certain amount of un-holiday attention because they're always Commemorating Something Important: wars or heroes or the labor movement..., which means to get through those days you have to deal with parades and speeches and sale prices slashed low, low, lower than whale poop.

Sunday, Part II, on the other hand, means only one thing: a day off. Here's an analogy: let's say you usually go to church on Sunday. Then imagine if one Sunday you get up expecting to go to church, but you're really tired, and you really wish you could sleep in and then you hear on the radio that the boiler in your church exploded, and the service is cancelled. Your conscience is clear. Sunday, Part II would be exactly like that.

I think it's just the stress-reducing panacea we need as the nineties climb out of their box. I think we'd like it so much that we'd agitate to have a Sunday, Part II every month. Think of it: getting together with your family and friends, and doing absolutely *nothing* for a whole day. No speeches, no parades. No worrying you're missing the lowest price on a Buick. Sunday, Part II: bringing back a smile to the face of the American Dream.

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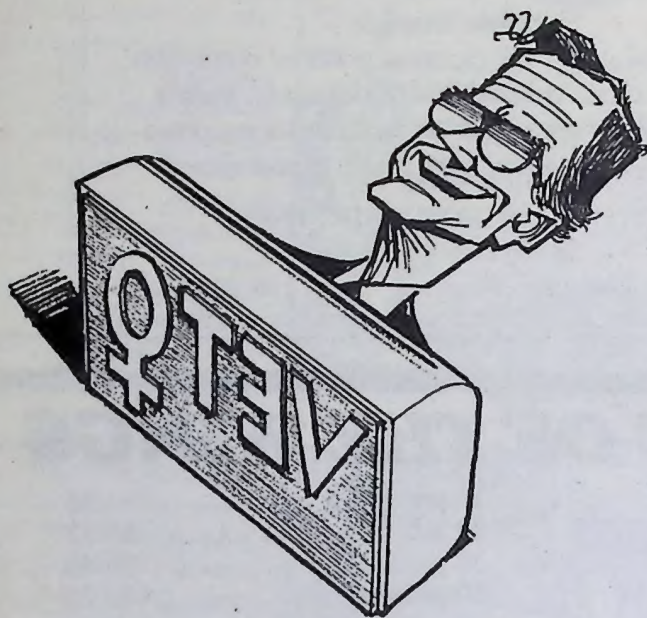


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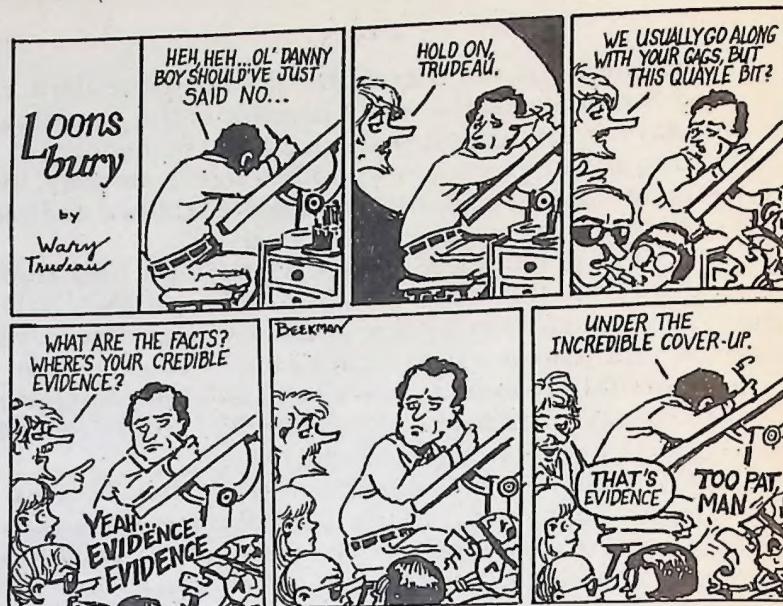
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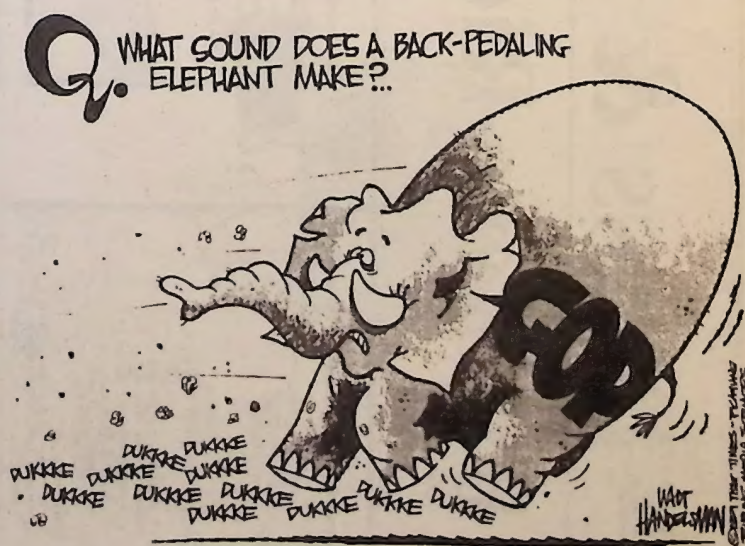
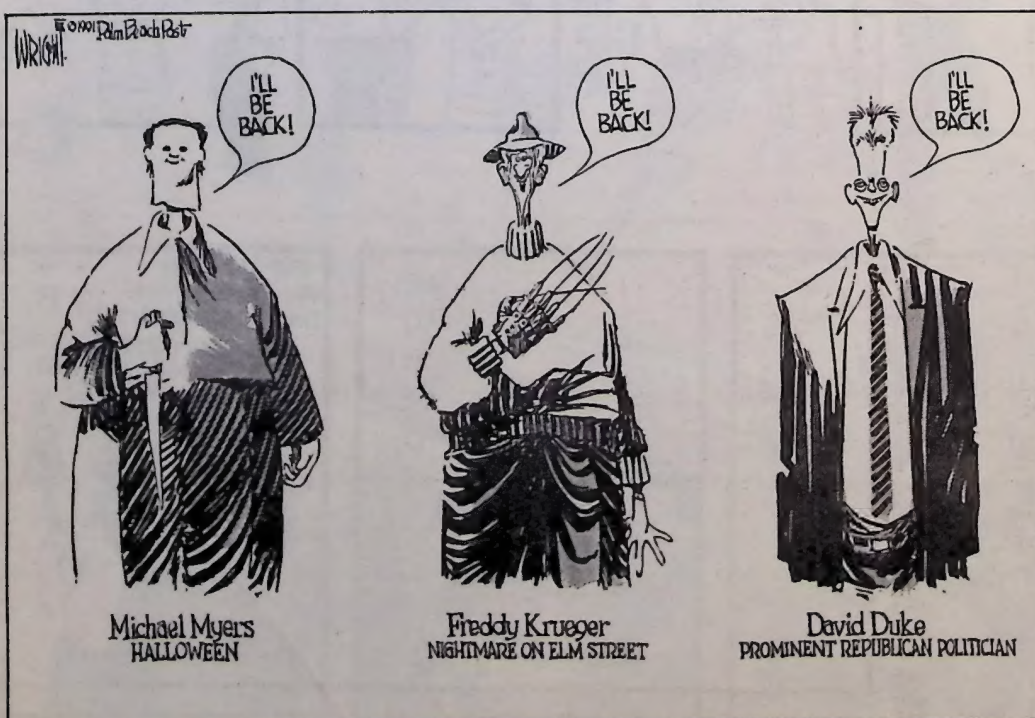
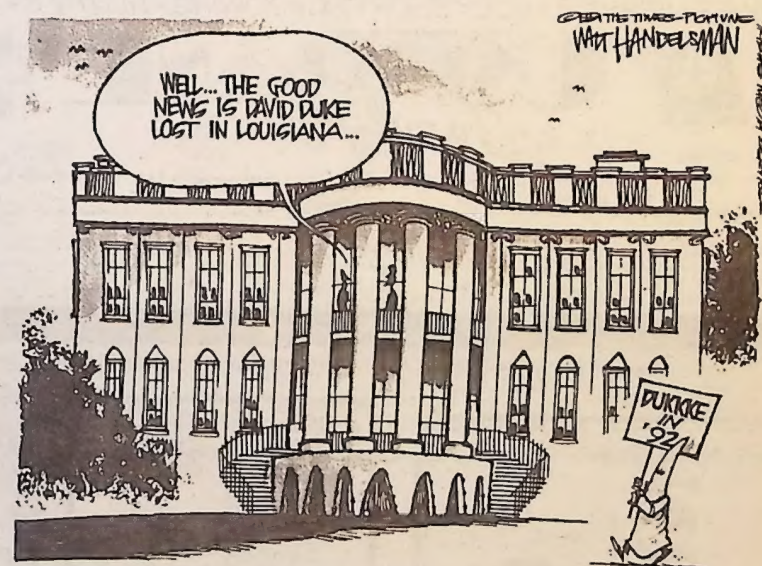
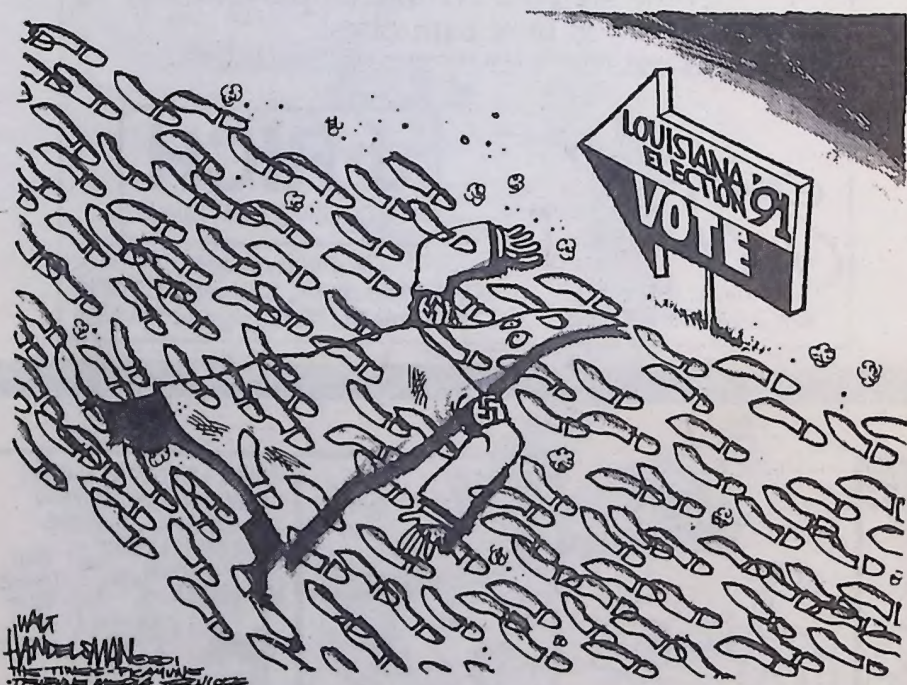
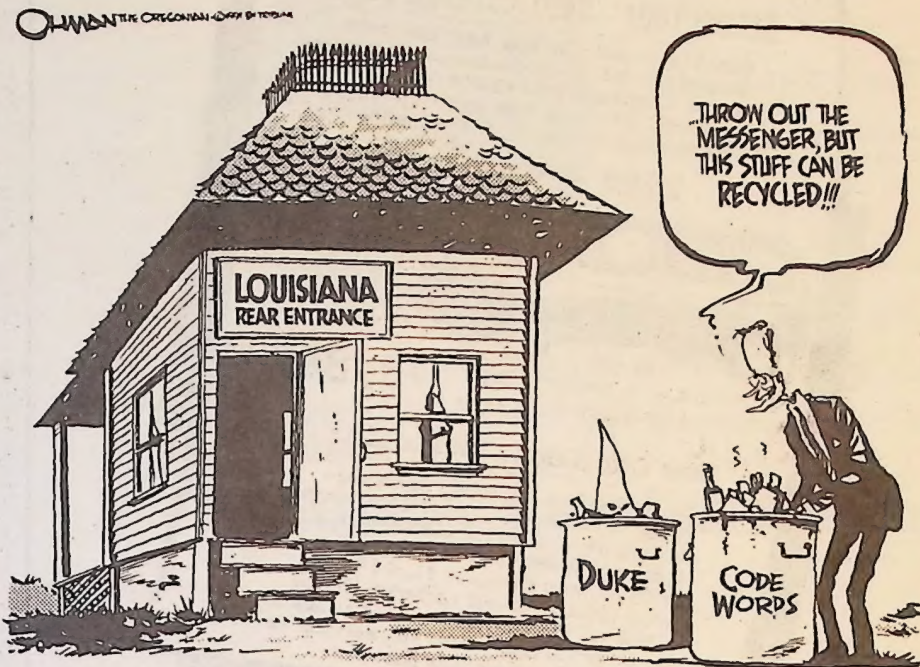
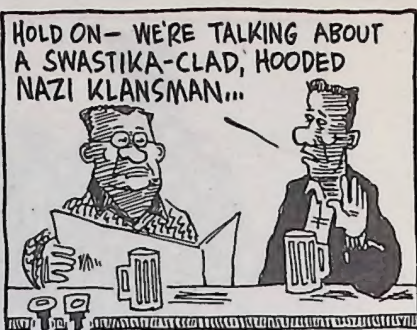
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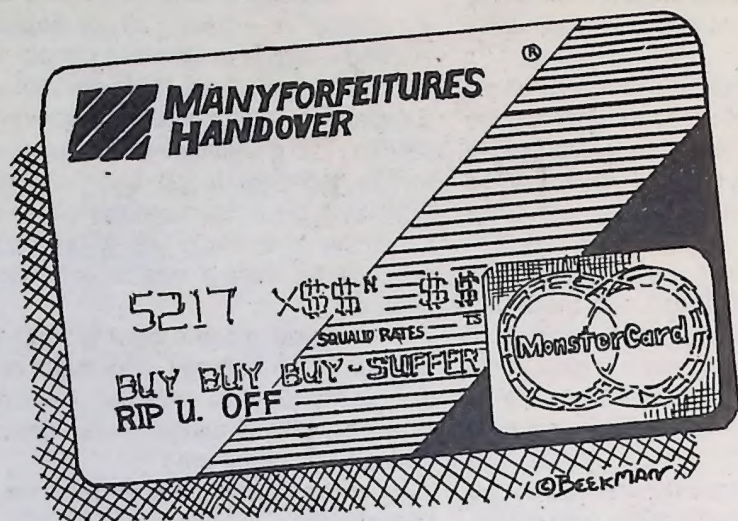
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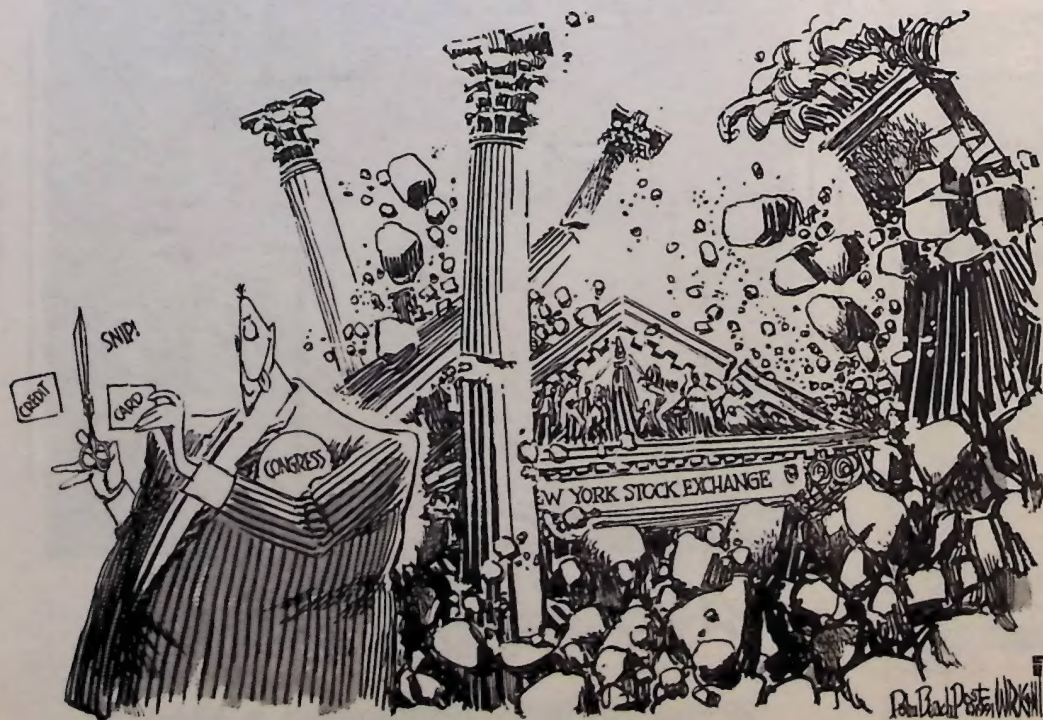
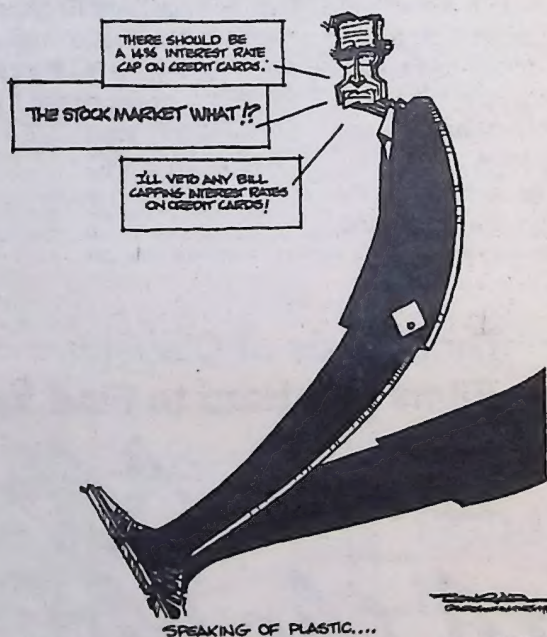
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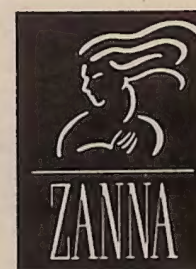
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THE PERFECT PARTY MIX.

JOE BOB BRIGGS

You've probly read about the latest big public health scare.

It's only a matter of time now. The old Food and Drug Administration clock is ticking. Sooner or later, once all the safety studies are in, the unthinkable is gonna happen:

The government is gonna outlaw fake breasts.

They say they're dangerous. They sat they can go haywire on you. They just had a bunch of hearings in Washington where women showed up with breasts that had *shifted* on 'em. The doctor put 'em in one way, then they woke up one morning with a chest that was all catty-wampus, one pointing at Alaska and the other one pointing at Key West.

Sure, there were other women who showed up with stunt breasts that had done their job properly for up to *thirty years*, and they were *proud* of those hooters. Their chests swelled with pride. And silicone.

But Ralph Nader had noticed that more than *two million* women in America have had surgical augmentation of their bazoomas. Did you realize this? We're talking the entire female populations of Arkansas and Mississippi put together have walked into a hospital somewhere and said, "Go ahead, cut on

me a while, just make sure I walk out of here with a set of headlamps the size of Wisconsin."

And so Ralph Nader decides that some of these artificial dinglebobbers just *might* be a little *dangerous*, especially at high speeds, and so he does a few tests on 'em. Ralph took your typical silicone-gel baggie—it's this little floating Jello mold that the surgeon plants in the middle of your breast like a turnip—and he threw it up against a brick wall like a dodge-ball to see if he could break it. And then they made giant fifty-pound silicone implants and used 'em for bean-bag chairs for six months, to see if they'd hold their shape. And then he studied these complaints from women who said that they'd go get the surgery, get a new set of P.T. Boats, be *perfectly happy* with the results—and then what happens?

Three months later, they *freeze up* on you. All of a sudden you hear this cracking noise, and your garbonzas go into freeze-frame, and you got a couple of thirty-pound icebergs hanging off the front of your chest. You can't move 'em with a block and tackle. You touch 'em and it feels like somebody welded an iron skillet under your skin. And then you gotta start doing this daily massage therapy on your flopdoodles, where you

try to "break down" the hard material, and if *that* doesn't work, you gotta go back to the doctor's office and let him do the job with a Louisville Slugger. Let's not dwell on it.

Of course, your reverse problem is when you get *droopers*. You get the new size of Balboas you were looking for, but they just hang off your chest like the skin on an elephant. For temporary help the doctor can issue you a set of water wings, which you can turn around and wear on your chest under the underperforming Winnebagos, but sooner or later you're gonna have to find some permanent support, like a "flesh trestle" or your dreaded Golden-Gate suspension surgery.

In other words, there's way too much we don't know about surgical enlargement of your Fujiyamas, and, until we do know the answers, you'd best leave small enough alone. On the other hand, if you're *really* desperate and you're *sure* that sooner or later you're gonna wanna freshen up the old Dueling Banjos, then you'd better go ahead and do it before the official ban begins and they run out of imitation breasts at the big mazonga factories in the Grand Tetons. These companies are desperate, so they'll probly be discounting the price—so you can go in with a friend,

get two new chests for the price of one, things like that.

And that's certainly better than the alternative—selling all our surplus silicone baggies to ignorant people in the Third World. Sure, there are a lot of Bangladeshi women who wake up every morning and gnash their teeth because they're too poor to possess 42-inch Howitzers, but if they suddenly became available, how could we know they wouldn't be trading one affliction for another?

Three months after getting a new set of Pia Zadoras, they might accidentally put a child's eye out. If you're gonna own these things, you've got to know how to use them.

I, for one, don't want that on my conscience.

It's time we took this problem seriously.

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Tropical Storms

6 Tropical storm Wilda, the third to strike the Philippines in 10 days, roared across Luzon but spared Leyte, where 6,000 people were killed by tropical storm Thelma on Nov. 5.

Tropical cyclone Tia left more than 1,000 people homeless after ravaging the eastern Solomon Islands for three days. High winds flattened all of the coconut trees on the island of Talokwai, and severely damaged its water supply.

An unnamed tropical cyclone brought torrential rains and flash floods across southern India as it moved ashore from the Bay of Bengal. At least 40 people were killed by drowning or in collapsed houses in the coastal states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

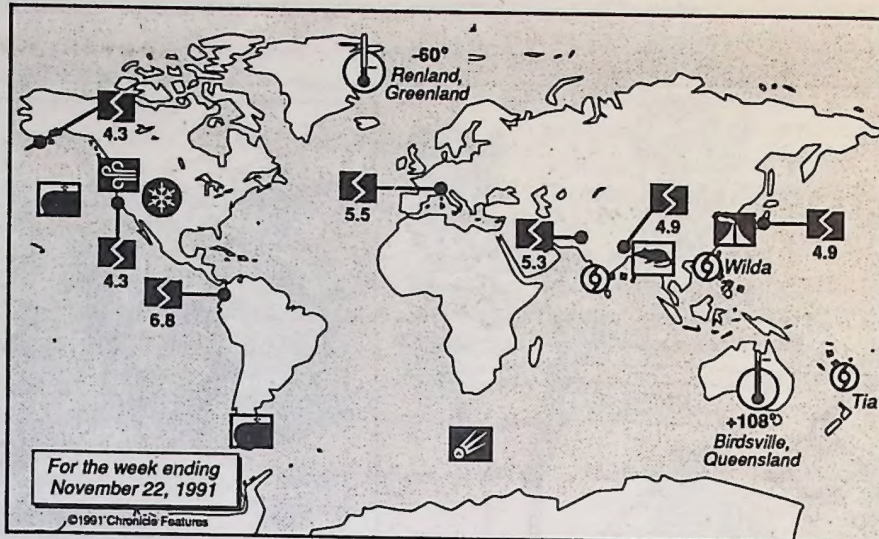
Whale Fortunes

More than 400 pilot whales beached themselves and died on a South Atlantic island off the Argentine coast. Environmental officials said the tragedy may have been caused by "disorientation" of the leaders of several groups of whales. Pilot whales are known for blindly following the lead of the male guide.

The U.S. Government proposed removing California's gray whales from the list of endangered species after a surprising surge in the population of the marine mammal. The number of gray whales in the northern Pacific has risen by three percent annually since 1967, to about 21,000 now. At the turn of the century, they numbered less than 2,000.

Early Snows

A series of winterlike storms brought several periods of heavy snowfall from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains. Almost three feet of new snow fell over the ski resorts of northern New Mexico and Colorado. Snow also fell as far south as the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas.



Pacific Storm

A violent storm brought high winds and lightning strikes to western Washington and southwestern British Columbia, downing trees and power lines and cutting power to 400,000 homes. Scott Forslund, spokesman for Seattle City Light Company, said "We haven't seen anything like this for many, many years."

Earthquakes

A sharp quake jolted central Japan, causing buildings to sway and furniture to shake in downtown Tokyo. In Colombia, buildings cracked and telephone service was disrupted by a powerful quake centered just offshore from Buenaventura. The strongest earthquake in Switzerland in nearly a half-century damaged buildings in the eastern Alps. Earth movements were also felt in the Alaska Peninsula, two points in India, and northwestern California.

Mystery Guest

A mysterious space object is predicted to fly near Earth next month. Scientists don't know whether it's a new type of asteroid or a 20-year-old Apollo rocket that shot past the moon and is now returning home. Deep-space tracking equipment estimates that the object is between one and 11 yards wide. If it is an asteroid, it will be the smallest ever discovered. Astronomer Steve Ostro of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., says it will fly within 290,000 miles of Earth about noon Greenwich Mean Time on Dec. 5.

Volcano

One year after awakening from almost two centuries of slumber, Unzen Volcano is once again threatening the 41,000 inhabitants of Shimabara, Japan. Seismologists say the new lava dome which formed in recent weeks could collapse at any time, spewing lethal

gas, rocks, and flaming ash.

Ravenous Rodents

Marauding hordes of rats have destroyed vast stretches of fields and orchards in Bangladesh, which survived a devastating cyclone in May. In some parts of the country, railway tracks have been weakened by rats that have dug burrows and tunnels beneath them. The government launches a countrywide rat-killing campaign every six months, offering prizes like a color television to those who collect the largest number of rat tails. Earlier campaigns to rid the impoverished nation of the rodents with poisonous chemicals and synthetic pesticides have caused the widespread destruction of natural predators like snakes and owls. This has left the rats with humans as their only surviving natural enemies.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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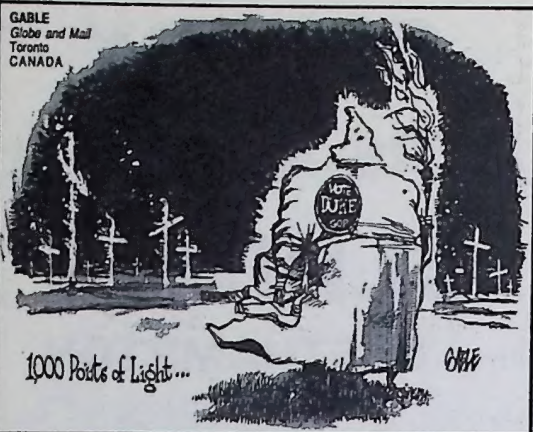


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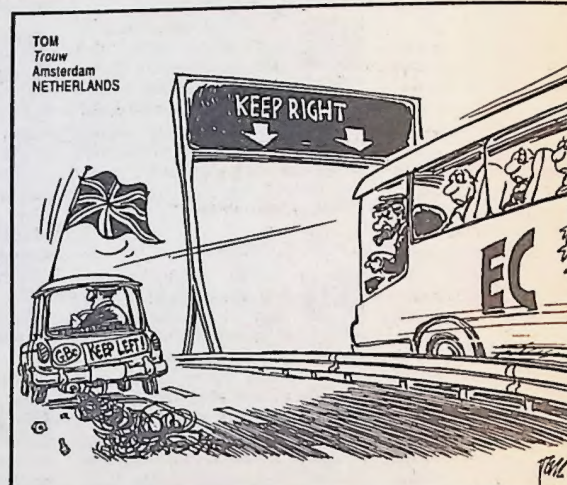
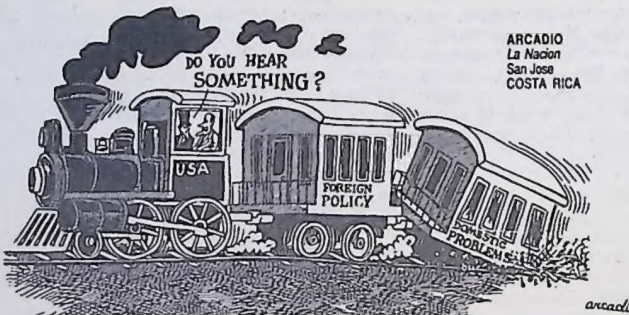
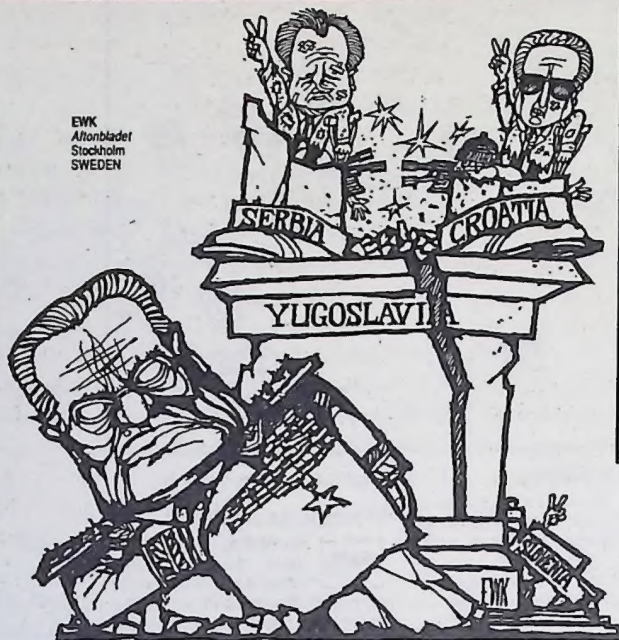
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

BY L. M. BOYD

Under Mississippi law, you can legally drop out of school at age 14. Then immediately go to Alabama where you can legally ride a motorcycle.

It has been documented that about half the teenage pregnancies occur during the first six months of sexual activity.

Among Arabian business people, I'm told, a coffee break is not a recess from the work of the day. It's part of it.

Baseball teams in the early days identified themselves by the colors of their socks. But some dyes irritated the skin. So players started wearing team colors on cloth stirrups under the feet over white socks. That's how such stirrups got to be a traditional part of the uniform. Incidentally, did I mention that the statistical study of baseball is called "sabermetrics"?

Twenty-one of the first 23 astronauts sent into space were either first-born or only children.

Only human cell capable of self-propulsion is sperm.

Shellfish experts say the male crawdad can't tell the gender of any other crawdad. At mating time, they say, it just grabs every crawdad it can get its claws on, until it catches one that cooperates.

You know what really moved Thomas Edison to invent the light bulb? He was afraid of the dark. That's what one historian claims.

French fries are so called by us because the Belgians who sold them to World War I soldiers spoke French, according to the word tracers.

Eleven astronauts are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Jack London's mother held seances.

"Road bowling" is an Irish game. Each of two players throws a 28-ounce iron ball along two or three miles of rural roadway to a specified destination. Winner is the player who covers the distance with the fewest throws.

An auto mechanic writes: "Either you can pack an extra fan belt in the car trunk for an emergency, or roll a pretty fair substitute out of a couple of pairs of panty hose, if you have any lying around."

Q. What's the difference, if any, in the weather phrases, "partly sunny" and "partly cloudy?"

A. Partly sunny -- more sun than cloud. Partly cloudy -- more cloud than sun. So say the meteorologists.

Elephants love licorice.

Before another decade passes, more than half of all American small businesses will be owned and operated by women. That's what the prognosticators foresee.

Thomas Jefferson got most things right, but not all. He insisted that species couldn't become extinct.

Are you the one who's eating up the buffalo? Somebody is. Current reports say Americans eat 75 tons of buffalo meat a week.

In a typical year, New York City's emergency rooms treat more human bites than rat bites.

Twice as many men as women over 65 are what researchers call heavy drinkers.

Any physics major will tell you a snowboard generates heat. Has to. To melt a sliding surface.

Q. How often can you pluck an ostrich?
A. Every nine months. From its third to twelfth year.

To free stubborn ketchup from its bottle, grip the bottle at the bottom and swirl it around your head. Can you visualize it? No, wait, with the cap on!

Another thing you can say of George Burns, he's about as old as Utah.

Clock hands move clockwise because that's how the sundial's shadow moved (in this hemisphere) long before such motion was called clockwise. It's also why almost all dials -- radio, TV, thermostat, whatever -- so move to "on."

According to reports out of the north, what bothers the polar bear most of late is festering body sores. From .22 caliber bullets. Fired for the fun of it.

Montreal is the only city in Canada where bars can stay open legally until 3 a.m.

The force withstood by a flea when it accelerates in a jump is said to climb to about 150 G's -- pretty close to that of a car hitting a brick wall at 200 mph.

Q. What word can be pronounced quicker by adding a syllable to it?
A. Quick.

Japanese children spend almost three and a half more years in school than American children do. Because of their extended school year.

The original "gangsters" were so-called because they were members of gangs, and the word wasn't libelous then.

Pigs' tails curl clockwise and counterclockwise at random in both hemispheres.



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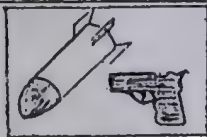


POLITICAL FANTASY #14 M.K. Anderson

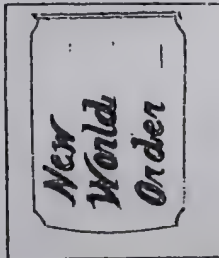
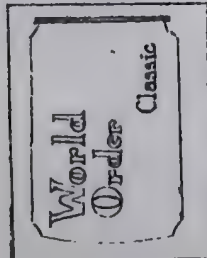


Congress appoints the cartoon characters from Scooby Doo to investigate Iran-Contra/BCCI/The October Surprise.

1991



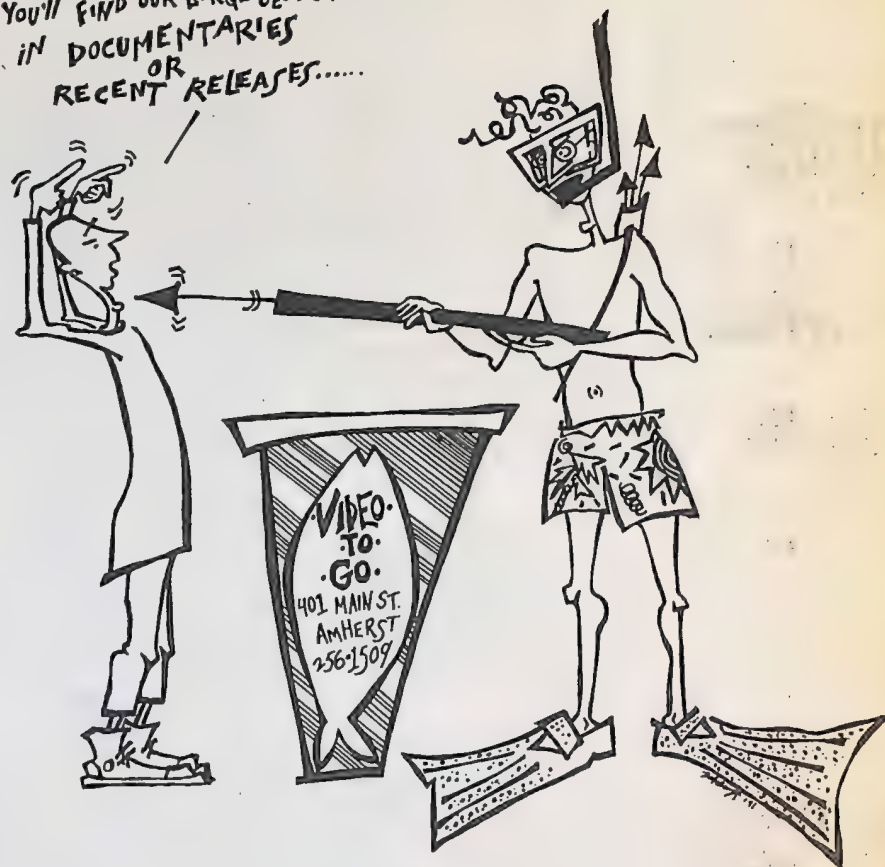
NO CHANGE



Top to Bottom: Johanna Halbelsen
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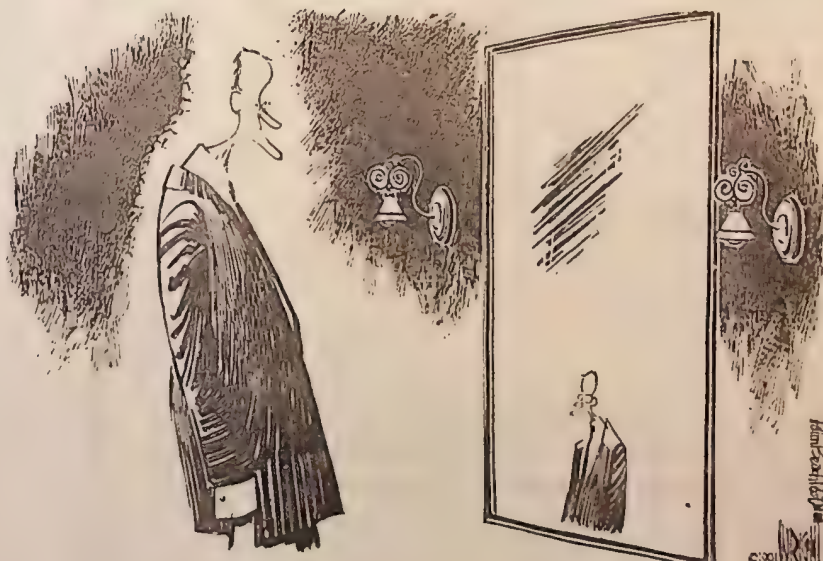
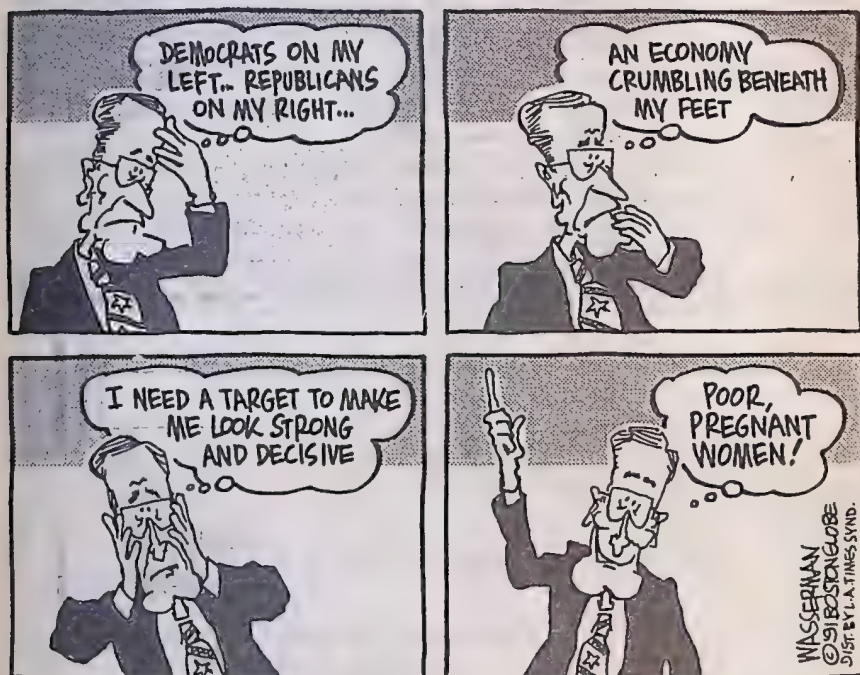
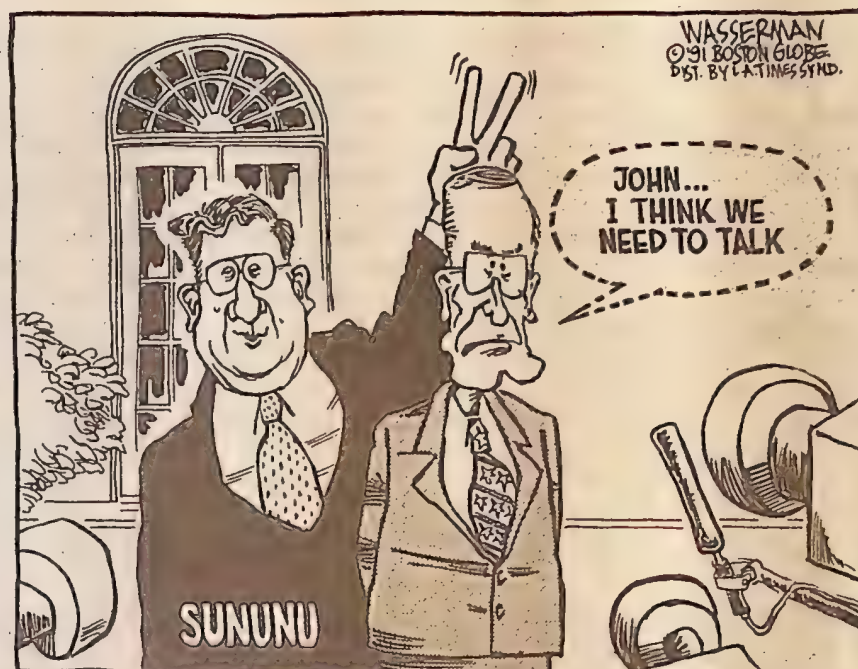
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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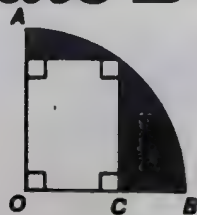


"Well, according to the dictionary, I'm just a large, flightless bird from East Africa. . . . But believe me, Doris — once you get to know me, you'll see I'm much, much more than that."



"Oh, yeah! Well, I'd rather be a living corpse made from dismembered body parts than a hunchbacked little grave robber like you!"

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13. In the figure above, AB is an arc of a circle with center O. If arc AB = 5π and CB = 4, what is the sum of the areas of the shaded regions?

- (A) $25\pi - 60$ (C) $25\pi - 36$ (E) $100\pi - 36$
(B) $25\pi - 48$ (D) $100\pi - 48$

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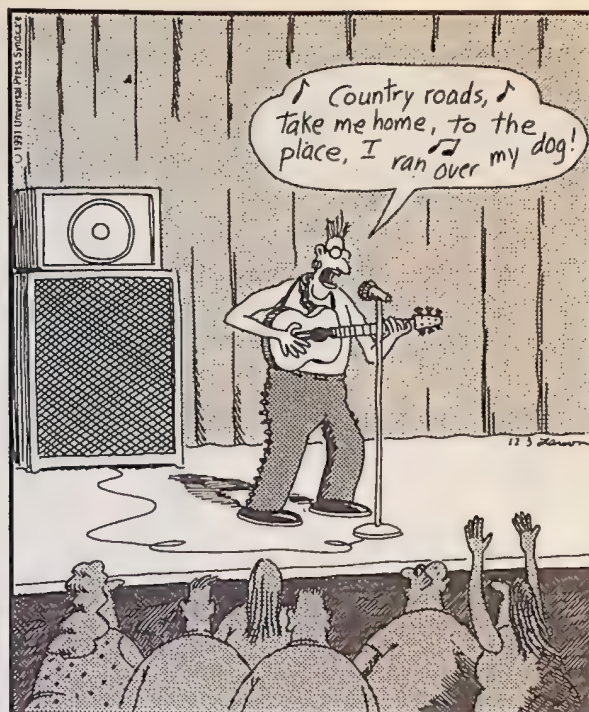
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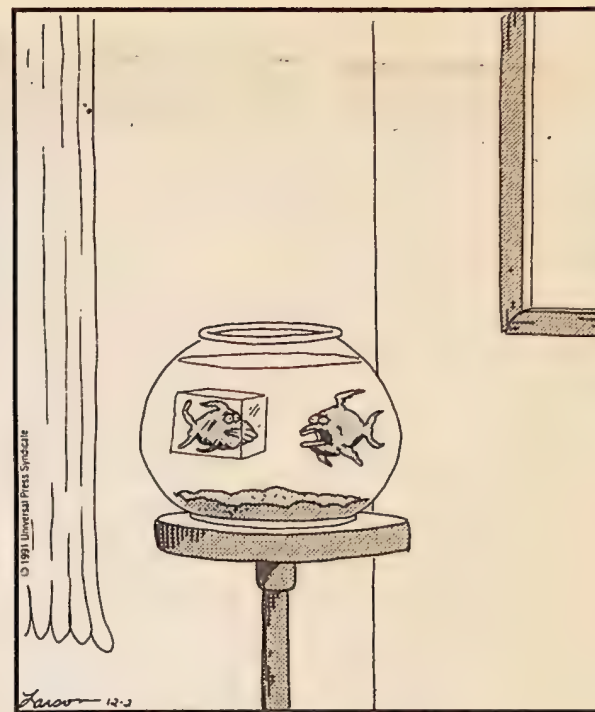
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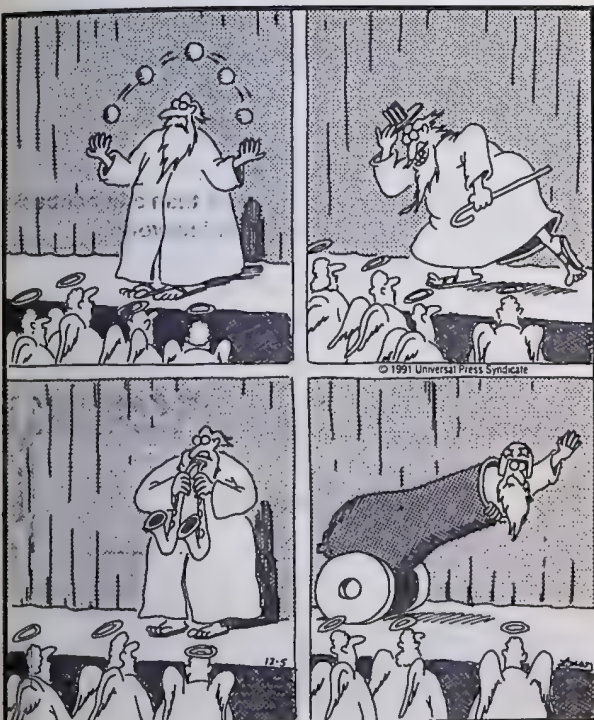
50,000 B.C.: Gak Eisenberg invents the first and last silent mammoth whistle.



John Denver on the comeback trail



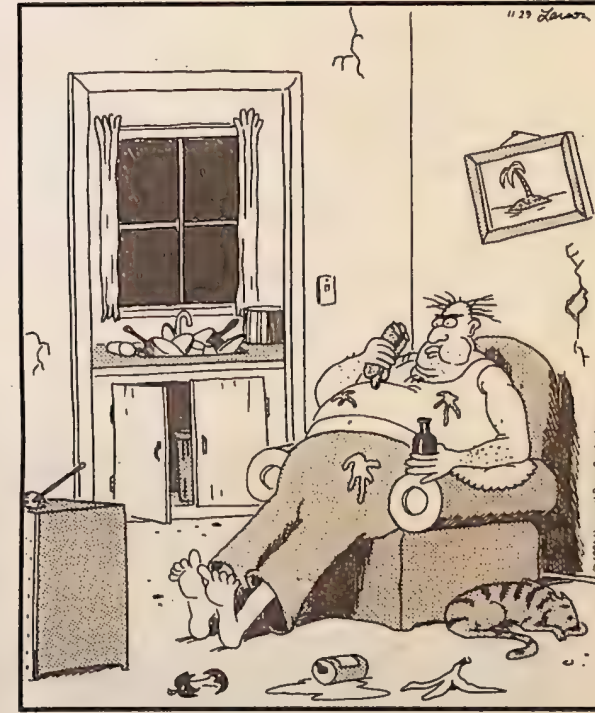
"You're a cold fish, Raymond."



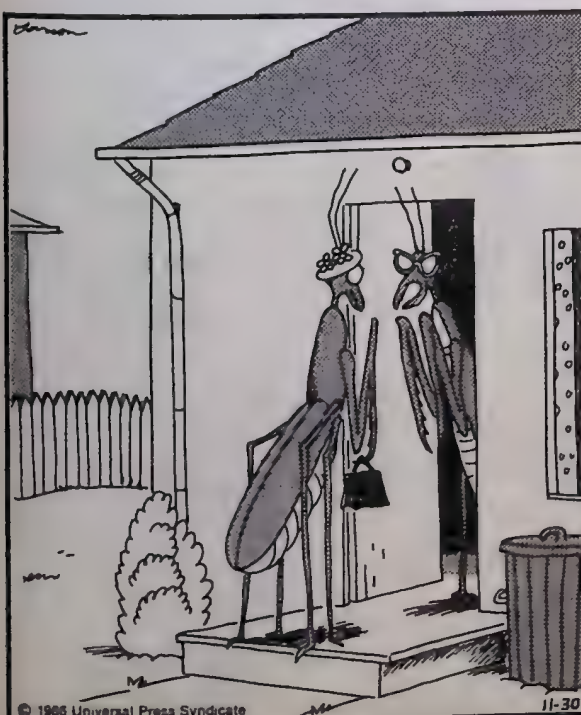
Acts of God



Early checkers



Giorgio Armani at home



"I don't know what you're insinuating, Jane, but I haven't seen your Harold all day — besides, surely you know I would only devour my own husband!"



The class abruptly stopped practicing. Here was an opportunity to not only employ their skills, but also to save the entire town.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

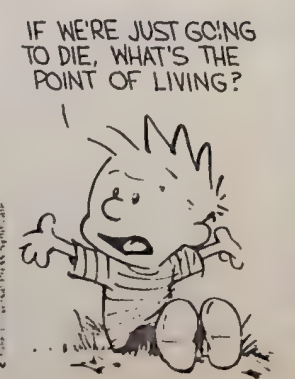
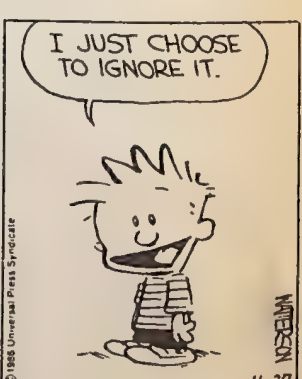
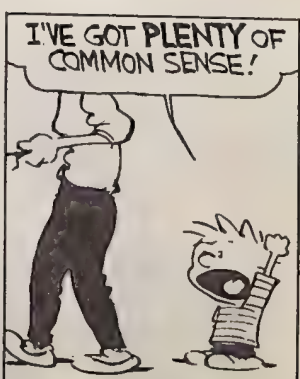
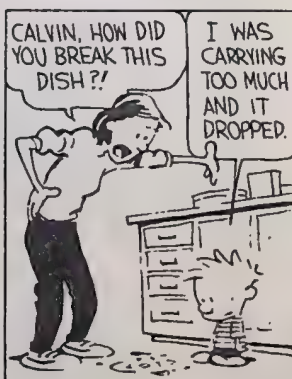
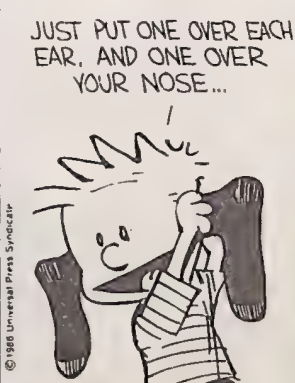
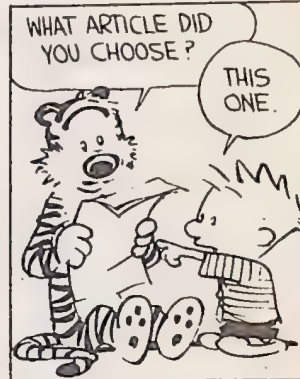
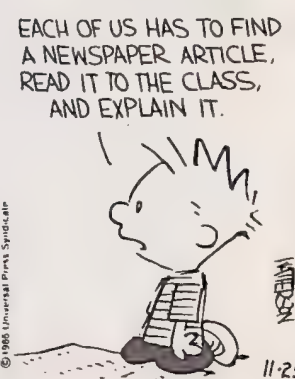
When I woke up this morning and I went into the bathroom, I noticed in the mirror that someone had dyed a large tuft of my hair bright purple.

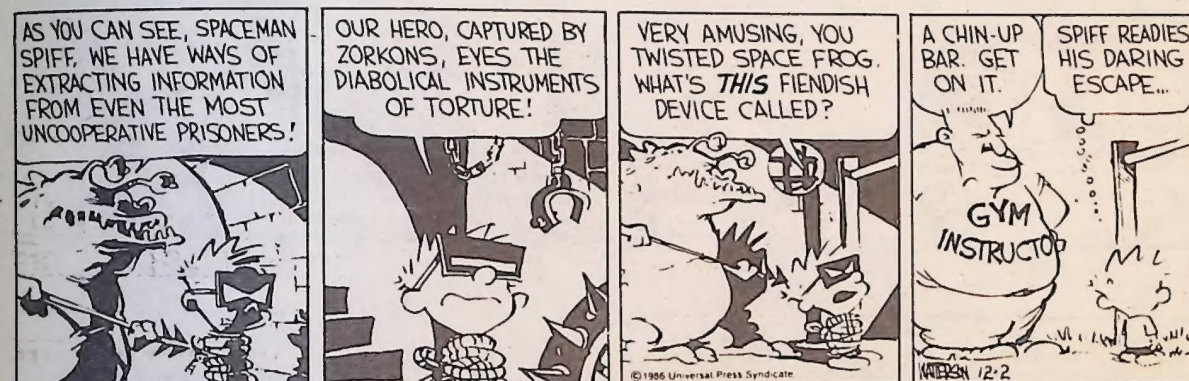
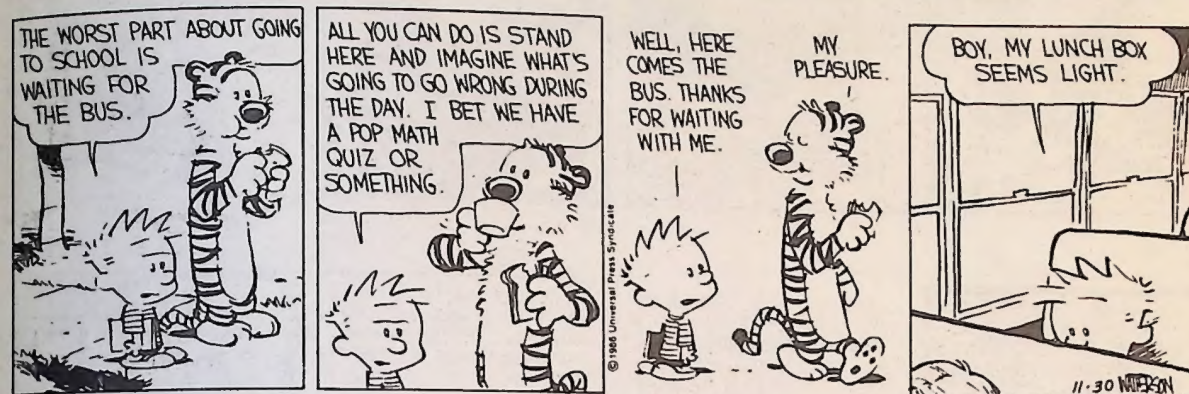
My father will be very angry with whomever did this to me. I know him very well.

He'll be out of control. He'll do some real damage.

You won't believe what he'll do. I really pity that person.

I hope I'm there when he finds the guy. . .





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MEXICAN FOOD LIKE YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT IN NEW ENGLAND

humor me

by Izzy Gesell

It's been said that of all the junk food, pizza is the one with the best reputation. If it has been said once, it's been said a million times, "If you have to eat junk food, eat pizza. It's like eating bread." Right result, wrong logic.

The reason pizza is best is because it can accommodate an almost endless variety of toppings. Junk food accessories, if you will. This allows the end product to be completely individualized. Anything you can get your hands on, or your mouth around, can go on pizza. And this lets you pig out in style.

Pizza has the added advantage of being delivered. Not only can you have your junk food and eat it too, you don't have to expend any energy getting it. This is especially important during winter when there is no reason to exercise, and you can wear many layers of bulky clothing.

Even in winter it is occasionally necessary to go out, and the only place to go is the movies. This is good for junk food fans because theaters are society's sanctions to eat junk food in public. The first thing you see when you walk into a theater is the concession stand. Goodies are showcased there like Tiffany jewels. This is the place a junk food brahmin goes to graze.

The best thing about movie junk food is the variety that can be thrown together. Combos that haven't been tried since junior high school suddenly click before your eyes. The rule here is to choose from at least two of the junk food groups for a well-balanced experience. First, a chocolate such as Goobers or Raisinets. Then a candy. Jujubes, Dots or Twizzlers are good choices. Finally, add a soda to the mandatory popcorn with lots of butter-flavor and salt. Voila! The finest in film food entertainment.

It is important to remember that no one in a movie theater will judge you by what you eat or how you eat it. They aren't eating tofu pups either.

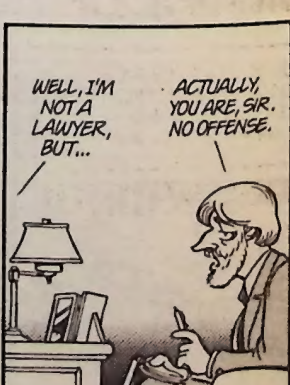
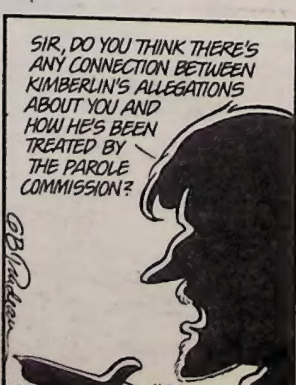
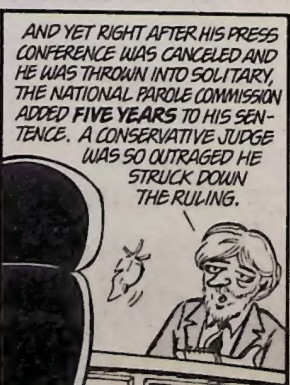
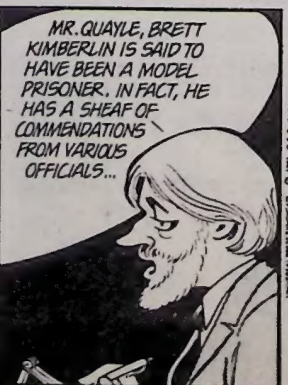
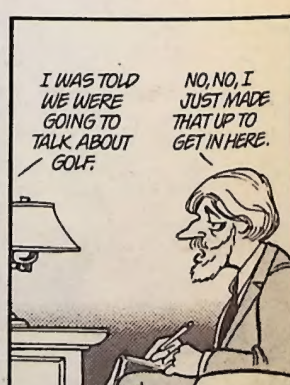
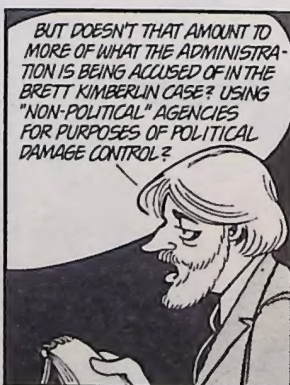
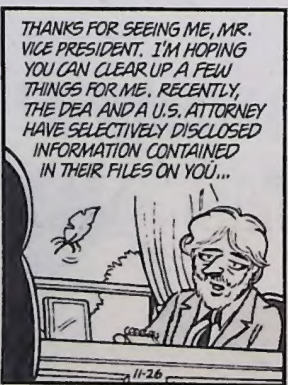
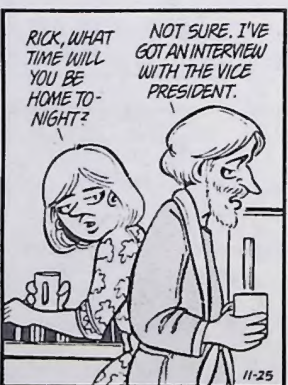
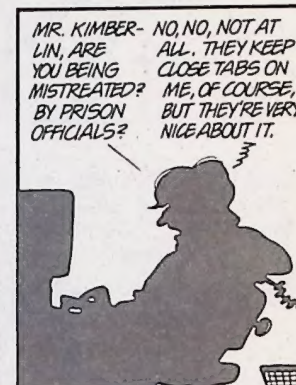
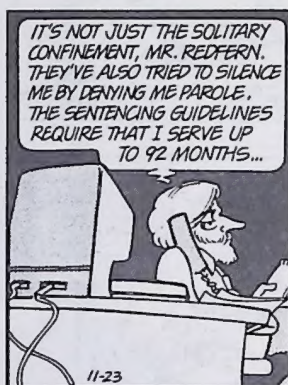
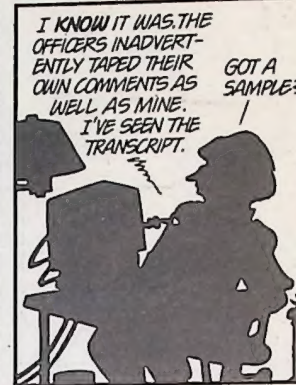
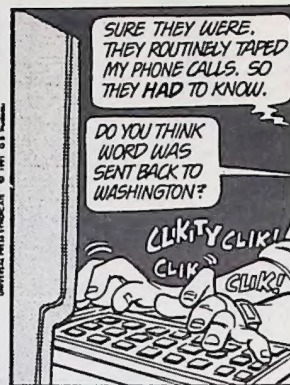
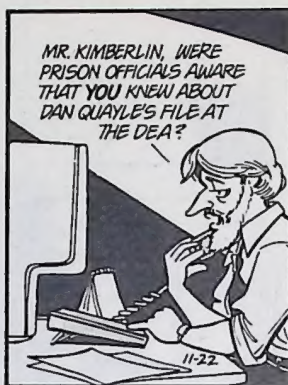
A bonus in movie theaters is the "magic moment," when the house lights go down and you can eat as much and as fast as you'd like. Ideally, you will finish all your food during the credits so that you and the rest of the audience can enjoy the film.

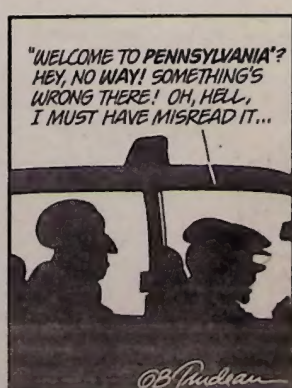
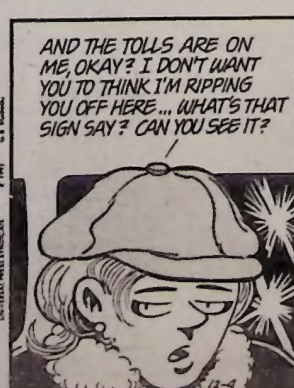
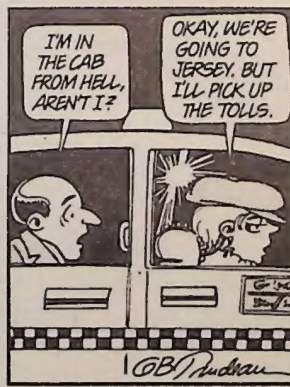
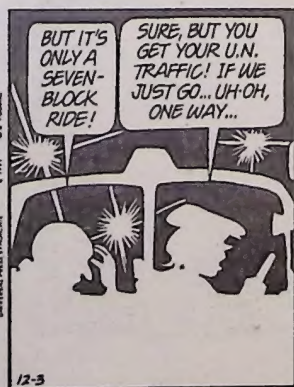
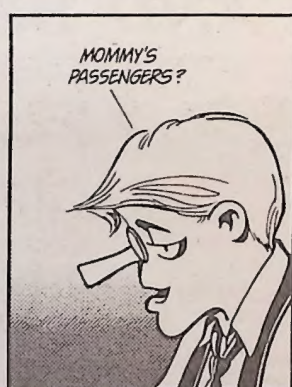
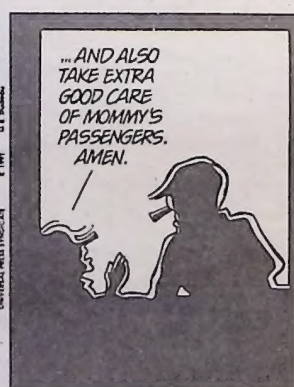
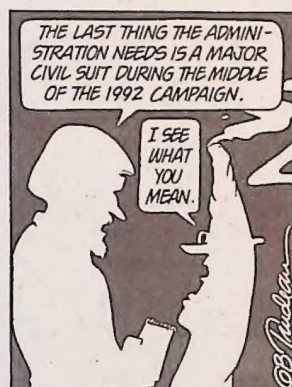
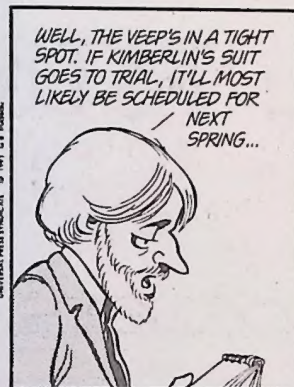
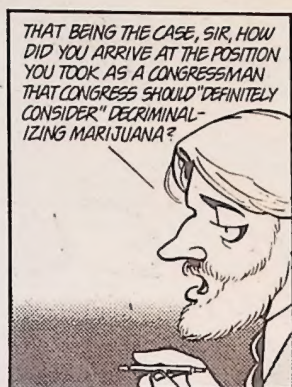
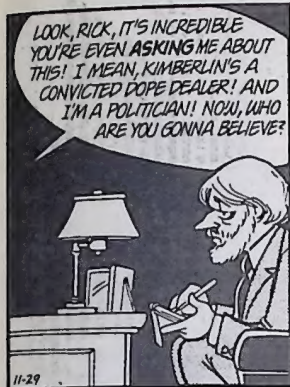
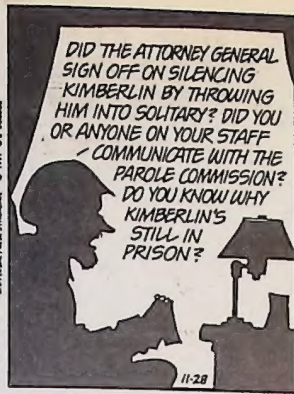
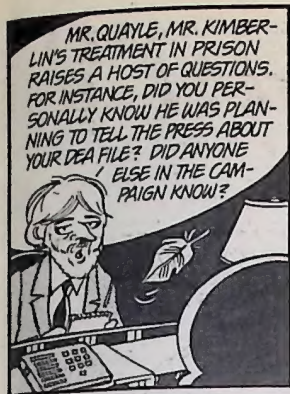
In spite of the much-ballyhooed fitness and health food trend, major food manufacturers continue to value the junk food consumer. How else to explain the following items: Double Stuff Oreo Cookies, Fig Newtons in an orchard of flavors, Snickers ice cream bars or individual cheesecakes from Sara Lee?

Much as the vehement anti-smoking campaign has spawned pro-smoker rights groups so, I predict, a junk food advocacy movement will soon arise. Twinkies and Ring Dings will be fashionable again. Chocolate milk will be the beverage of choice. Baloney sandwiches will be *de rigueur* at parties. If this sounds exciting, now is the time to stand up, wipe the crumbs from your chest and be counted. Send your favorite junk food recipes and combinations to me and I'll pass them on.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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